

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



February 17 - 27, 2025



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Birding and Natural History

If you take the colorful tropical birds of South America and pair them with the beautiful white sand beaches and warm waters of the Caribbean, you get Trinidad & Tobago! Only six miles off the coast of mainland South America at the nearest point, this twin-island nation boasts **over 400 bird species**, including two endemics. We'll take time on this tour to explore both islands and their various habitats: from the tidal mangrove channels and dense, tropical rainforests of Trinidad to the rolling hills and scenic coastlines of Tobago.

On our first day in Trinidad, we'll dive right in with a trip to the **Caroni Bird Sanctuary**, where we'll take a boat ride through mangroves that are teeming with wildlife. We'll be keeping an eye out for birds such as **Green-rumped Parrotlets**, **American Flamingos**, and four possible species of kingfishers, as well as other animals like the adorable **Silky Anteater**. This is also the premier location to see the national bird of Trinidad & Tobago, the stunning **Scarlet Ibis**!

Later, we'll spend several days at the world-renowned **Asa Wright Nature Centre**, with its extensive trail system and extraordinary birding right from the spacious veranda. Here we hope to encounter **Turquoise Tanagers**, **Purple Honeycreepers**, **Bearded Bellbirds**, **Ruby-topaz Hummingbirds** and the small-but-feisty **Tufted Coquette**! We will also make a special effort to see the unique **Oilbird** roosting on rocky cliff ledges. We'll finish our time in Trinidad on the northern coast, where we'll have our best chance of seeing the endemic **Trinidad Piping-Guan**. With a little luck, we may also get to see massive Leatherback Turtles coming to the sandy shores to lay their eggs at night.

The conclusion of our tour will be on Tobago, known for its laid-back Caribbean style and beautiful blue waters. Here we'll search for specialty birds such as the **White-tailed Sabrewing**, nesting **Red-billed Tropicbirds**, and the endemic **Trinidad Motmot**. We'll also have the opportunity to snorkel with an abundance of marine life on the Angel Reef, which is in the cove right in front of our hotel! Of course, we will also have time to sit back and relax on the beach or poolside in this Caribbean paradise.

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: February 17, 2025

Duration of Main Tour: 11 days

Number of participants: Max of 12

Price of Tour: \$5,695 per person

Deposit: \$2,600

Single Supplement: \$1,145

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground and water transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Flights
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes

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ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - Feb 17 - Arrival to Trinidad

Flights will arrive mid-afternoon to the Piarco International Airport in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Once we have gathered the group, we will make the drive to our first lodging, approximately an hour from the airport. There may be time for a little birding on the grounds before we have our first group dinner at the lodge, then we'll call it an early night.

Lodging: [Hacienda Jacana](#)

Day 2 - Feb 18 - Local Birding & Caroni Swamp

We'll begin the day with a hearty breakfast, then we'll spend time birding the grounds of Hacienda Jacana. The property features a nice mix of habitats, including forest edge, gardens, and a fairly large wetland area. Our trip list should get off to a great start without ever having to get on the bus. We will have lunch at the lodge, a little downtime, then drive for roughly an hour to the **Caroni Bird Sanctuary**. Here we will board a boat

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to explore the many tidal mangrove channels, where wildlife reigns supreme. We'll have good chances of seeing some fascinating non-avian animals here, such as **Boa Constrictors** and the pint-sized **Silky Anteater**. Birds will also be plentiful, especially water birds such as **egrets, herons, kingfishers, flamingos**, and the national bird of Trinidad & Tobago, the **Scarlet Ibis**. Caroni Swamp is the premier site for this astounding bird, as many come in to the mangroves to roost in the evening. Once we have finished our boat tour, we'll head back to the lodge, where we'll go over our bird list and have another excellent dinner.

Lodging: [Hacienda Jacana](#)

Day 3 - Feb 19 - Local Birding & The Road to Asa Wright

We will again begin the morning at Hacienda Jacana, and then bird our way towards the world-famous **Asa Wright Nature Centre**. We will arrive in time for lunch, then spend the afternoon enjoying the spectacle of their amazing bird feeders. We will get to see first-hand what makes the veranda of Asa Wright so famous, as **Silver-beaked** and **Turquoise Tanagers, Purple** and **Green Honeycreepers**, at least **thirteen hummingbird species**, and more come in to dine on the fruit and nectar offerings! We will have many birds to add to our list in the evening before having dinner at the lodge.

Lodging: [Asa Wright Nature Center](#)



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Day 4 - Feb 20 - Birding the Trails of Asa Wright

Today we'll bird the trails of Asa Wright, which wind through lush forest habitat. Some of our primary targets will be birds such as **Chestnut Woodpecker**, **Bearded Bellbird**, and **Golden-headed Manakin**. We'll also make a special effort to see the unique **Oilbird**. This nocturnal, fruit-eating species is one of the only birds in the world known to use echolocation. It spends the day roosting in caves or rocky cliff faces, with suitable roosting habitat a short distance from the lodge. Later in the day, we'll again have time to enjoy the veranda as we go over our bird list before dinner.

Lodging: [Asa Wright Nature Center](#)



Masked Cardinal

Day 5 - Feb 21 - Birding the Blanchisseuse Road

Today we'll head north to bird the **Blanchisseuse Road**, where we'll have opportunities to see **Blue-headed Parrots**, **Channel-billed Toucans**, **three species of trogons**, **plentiful tanager species**, and much more. The slightly different habitat here should give us plenty of new species to add to the list when we return to Asa Wright for one last evening on the veranda, and one more delicious dinner.

Lodging: [Asa Wright Nature Center](#)



Guianan Trogon

Day 6 - Feb 22 - Birding to the NE Coast

After our final breakfast at Asa Wright, we'll make our way to **Grande Riviere** in the northeastern corner of Trinidad, birding along the way. By the afternoon, we'll get settled into our new lodging, which is located right along a famous beach for nesting **Leatherback Sea Turtles**. We'll be given a presentation to learn about the natural history of these amazing reptiles, as well as appropriate etiquette for viewing them. February is a little early for their typical nesting season, but with a little luck, we may get the chance to see one of these giant turtles coming ashore to lay her eggs.

Lodging: [Le Grand Almandier](#)

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Scarlet Ibises in the Caroni Swamp



The Island of Tobago



Leatherback Sea Turtle



Purple Honeycreeper

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Day 7 - Feb 23 - Birding the Coastal Region

We'll go out in the morning to bird the coast and the surrounding area, where we'll have our best chance at finding the endemic **Trinidad Piping-Guan**. The change in habitat should lead to us getting quite a few new species for the trip. We'll have some downtime in the afternoon to enjoy the beach and the scenic coast, then we'll meet later in the day to go over the bird list and have dinner.

Lodging: [Le Grand Almandier](#)

Day 8 - Feb 24 - On to Tobago

Before leaving our hotel, we'll do a little bit of nearby birding before heading back to the airport. We'll catch a short, 30-minute flight for the final destination of our tour: **Tobago**! We'll reach Tobago by the afternoon and stop at a few birding hotspots as we make our way east across the island to our lodge. The change in islands will come with a change in atmosphere, as Tobago very much has the laid-back vibes that one thinks of when they picture Caribbean islands. It also comes with a change in birdlife, so as we go over our lists in the evening, we should have a fair number of new species to add. When we reach our beautiful seaside inn, we'll have time to get settled into our rooms before meeting for dinner by the water.

Lodging: [Blue Waters Inn](#)

Day 9 - Feb 25 - Exploring Little Tobago & Snorkeling

After breakfast, we'll take a boat out to the small island of **Little Tobago**, which lies just beyond the cove in front of our hotel. When we reach the far side of the island, we'll get out of the boat and explore the trails, allowing us close looks at nesting seabirds such as **Red-billed Tropicbirds** and **Red-footed Boobies**. On the way back, we'll anchor the boat and go **snorkeling on the Angel Reef**, which lies only a few hundred yards offshore. Here we'll enjoy many types of corals, brightly colored tropical fish, and other marine life. The afternoon will be yours to relax at our peaceful beach hotel, where we'll have another tasty dinner as a group later in the evening.

Lodging: [Blue Waters Inn](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.

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Day 10 - Feb 26 - Birding Tobago & Relaxation

Today we'll drive to the northern part of Tobago to go birding in some of the higher elevation forests. One of our key targets will be the **White-tailed Sabrewing**, a hummingbird that can only be found in Tobago and parts of Venezuela. We will also have good chances to see a species that is endemic to Trinidad and Tobago, the **Trinidad Motmot**. We'll return to the lodge for a late lunch, and the afternoon will again be free to relax and enjoy the Caribbean.

Lodging: [Blue Waters Inn](#)

Day 11 - Feb 27 - Farewells

Optional pre-breakfast birding, then we'll enjoy our last morning at the Blue Waters Inn and its wonderful beach. After lunch at the hotel, we'll load the vans and head for the airport. We fly back to Trinidad, arriving with plenty of time to have dinner at the airport before flying home.



Trinidad Motmot

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YOUR GUIDES

REBECCA PAYNE

From an early age, Rebecca has been avidly curious about the natural world. What started out as exploring the backyard of her childhood home led to an interest in exotic animals. While completing her B.A. in Zoo and Wildlife Biology, she was surrounded by teachers and mentors who nurtured her love for all things birds and birding. Through their encouragement, she focused her studies on the care of avian species. For several years, Rebecca worked in zoos across the country as an aviculturist, participating in breeding programs for endangered species, bird shows, and public outreach. Through these experiences, she discovered that her true passion lies in teaching others and fostering meaningful connections between people and wildlife.

This spring-boarded Rebecca into the world of environmental education. Combining this field with her love of exploring new places, she has enjoyed many fulfilling teaching roles, from New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory, to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, to Pennsylvania State Parks. All the while, she has had her binoculars in hand, using birds and avian ecology to bring people closer to nature.

Rebecca is excited to bring her experience to the nature-tour industry and share her love of birds and the environment with others.



CHRIS PAYNE

Chris has been immersed in the natural world his entire life. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania with two naturalists for parents, his first interest in wildlife was anything he could catch: frogs, salamanders, snakes, and the like. Once Chris discovered the world of birds, he was hooked. He soon began making lists of all the birds he could identify, both at home and when his family traveled. Each new bird that Chris encountered left him wanting to learn more about them.

It was during Chris's sophomore year at West Virginia University that he decided that spending time in nature had to be more than just a hobby. After graduating with a degree in biology, he pieced together bird-related field work for several years, conducting surveys for Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, nest searching, hawkwatching, and assisting in geolocator research. After meeting his wife, Rebecca, Chris decided to return to school for an M.S. in biology and is currently finishing his thesis at Shippensburg University.

Leading nature tours is the best of both worlds for Chris: getting to work in nature surrounded by birds, but more importantly, getting to share that passion with others.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days but more than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, all payments refunded, minus 50% of deposit.
- **Less than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.

Photo credits:

The following photos by Faraaz Abdool (faraazabdool.com): Masked Cardinal, Guianan Trogon, Green Honeycreeper.